**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A dialog control system, comprising:

an input part that interprets input information input;

a plurality of dialog agents, each changing a state in accordance with the input information and generating a response; ~~and~~

a dialog agent control part that communicates with the dialog agents and the input part, and which intermediates between the plurality of dialog agents and the input part, registers processing capability information indicating input information which each dialog agent is capable of accepting in each state by requesting the processing capability information from one or more of the dialog agents, manages transmission of the input information, including the responses of the dialog agents, to the dialog agents to request respective responses, ~~and~~ transmits a response of processing results from the dialog agents to an output part<u>, and provides a current context agent estimating part that stores information regarding a current context agent that has finally performed a dialog with a user</u>,

wherein, each dialog agent notifies the dialog agent control part of the processing capability information of the dialog agent according to the state of the dialog agent<u>,</u> and

<u>wherein</u> when the input information is input,

<u>if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is capable of accepting the input information,</u> the dialog <u>agent</u> control part selects ~~a dialog~~<u>the current context</u> agent <u>and transmits the input information to the current context agent to receive a response thereto, and</u>

<u>if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is not capable of accepting the input information, the dialog agent control part selects a dialog agent that is not the current context agent and is capable of accepting the input information</u> ~~based upon the registered processing capability information of each dialog agent in each state~~, and

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transmits the input information to the selected dialog agent to receive a response thereto.

2.      (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 1, wherein the dialog agent control part previously stores identification information of the dialog agents and selection priority of the dialog agents so that the identification information is associated with the selection priority, refers to the dialog agents in a decreasing order of the selection priority when referring to the input information and the registered processing capability, and transmits the input information to the first selected dialog agent to request a response to the input information.

3.      (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 2, wherein the dialog agent control part accumulates identification information of the dialog agent selected as a transmission destination of the input information, refers to the first stored dialog agent when selecting the subsequent dialog agent, in a case where the stored dialog agent is capable of processing the input information based upon the registered processing capability, transmits the input information to the stored dialog agent to request a response to the input information, and in a case where the stored dialog agent is not capable of processing the input information based upon the registered processing capability, refers to the dialog agents in a decreasing order of the selection priority.

4. (Previously Presented)  The dialog control system according to claim 2, wherein the selection priority of the dialog agent is automatically updated in accordance with a use frequency of the dialog agent.

5. (Previously Presented)  The dialog control system according to claim 3, wherein the selection priority of the dialog agent is automatically updated in accordance with a use frequency of the dialog agent.

6. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 2, wherein, in the dialog agent control part, the control agents to be referred to are narrowed in accordance with contents of the input information, and the narrowed dialog agents are referred to in a decreasing order of the selection priority.

7. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 3, wherein, in the

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dialog <u>agent</u> control part, the control agents to be referred to are narrowed in accordance with contents of the input information, and the narrowed dialog agents are referred to in a decreasing order of the selection priority.

8. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 4, wherein, in the dialog <u>agent</u> control part, the control agents to be referred to are narrowed in accordance with contents of the input information, and the narrowed dialog agents are referred to in a decreasing order of the selection priority.

9. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 1, wherein the dialog <u>agent</u> control part stores the identification information of the dialog agent determined to be available based upon the registered processing capability of the dialog agents.

10. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 2, wherein the dialog <u>agent</u> control part includes a user information input part for inputting information for identifying a user, stores input information for identifying the user and information on a state using the dialog agent including the selection priority on a user basis, and performs processing in accordance with the selection priority on a user basis.

11. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 3, wherein the dialog <u>agent</u> control part includes a user information input part for inputting information for identifying a user, stores input information for identifying the user and information on a state using the dialog agent including the selection priority on a user basis, and performs processing in accordance with the selection priority on a user basis.

12. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 4, wherein the dialog <u>agent</u> control part includes a user information input part for inputting information for identifying a user, stores input information for identifying the user and information on a state using the dialog agent including the selection priority on a user basis, and performs processing in accordance with the selection priority on a user basis.

13. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 5, wherein the dialog <u>agent</u> control part includes a user information input part for inputting information for

identifying a user, stores input information for identifying the user and information on a state using the dialog agent including the selection priority on a user basis, and performs processing in accordance with the selection priority on a user basis.

14. (currently amended)  The dialog control system according to claim 6, wherein the dialog <u>agent </u>control part includes a user information input part for inputting information for identifying a user, stores input information for identifying the user and information on a state using the dialog agent including the selection priority on a user basis, and performs processing in accordance with the selection priority on a user basis.

15. (Currently Amended)  A dialog control method, comprising:

receiving input information;

providing a plurality of dialog agents, each changing a state in accordance with the input information and generating a response; and

intermediating between the plurality of dialog agents and the received input information by:

receiving from each dialog agent a notification of processing capability information indicating input information which each dialog agent is capable of accepting in each state, from one or more of the dialog agents;

registering the processing capability information about each dialog agent, according to the receiving of the processing capability information,

<u>storing information regarding a current context agent that has finally performed a dialog with a user,</u>

<u>if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is capable of accepting the input information, selecting the current context agent as the selected dialog agent,</u>

<u>if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is not capable of accepting the input information, selecting a dialog agent that is not the current context agent and is capable of accepting the input information</u>~~selecting a dialog agent based upon the registered processing capability  information of each dialog agent in each state~~,

transmitting the input information to the selected dialog agent to receive a response thereto,

managing transmission of the input information, including the responses of the

dialog agents, to the dialog agents to request respective responses, and

transmitting a response of processing results from the dialog agents.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage for controlling a computer to execute operations comprising:

receiving input information;

providing a plurality of dialog agents, each changing a state in accordance with the input information and generating a response;

intermediating between the plurality of dialog agents and received input information by:

receiving from each dialog agent a notification of processing capability information indicating input information which each dialog agent is capable of accepting in each state, from one or more of the dialog agents;

registering the processing capability information about each dialog agent, according to the receiving of the processing capability information,

storing information regarding a current context agent that has finally performed a dialog with a user,

if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is capable of accepting the input information, selecting the current context agent as the selected dialog agent,

if according to the notified capability information the current context agent is not capable of accepting the input information, selecting a dialog agent that is not the current context agent and is capable of accepting the input information~~selecting a dialog agent based upon the registered processing capability  information of each dialog agent in each state~~,

transmitting the input information to the selected dialog agent to receive a response thereto,

managing transmission of the input information, including the responses of the dialog agents, to the dialog agents to request respective responses, and

transmitting a response of processing results from the dialog agents.

17. (cancelled)

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